

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the diligent and thoughtful review of the presently pending application and the prior art of record. In response to the Office Action (“OA”) mailed on March 1, 2006, Applicant respectfully responds by amending the claims (as set forth above) and the following Remarks.

First, the Examiner found that claims 23-58 and 63 were directed to a new invention. Applicant has cancelled these claims and will pursue them in a divisional application.

Second, in the OA, claims 44-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,060,852 (hereafter “Domel”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,170,108 (hereafter “Peterson”). Again, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the same reasons set forth in its previously submitted responses, specifically those submitted on May 3, 2005 and on December 1, 2005. However, in the interest of expediency, Applicant has cancelled claims 44-58 from the present application thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Last, the OA states, “Claims 59-62 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form ...” Applicant thanks the Examiner for this finding of allowable subject matter. Yet, claim 59 is already written in independent form. Claim 59 remains non-amended. Claims 60-62 have been variously rewritten into independent form to recite the limitations of independent claim 44, from which claims 60-62 depended.

New claims 64-77 have also been added. These claims depend from amended claims 60-62 and variously recite the limitations previously recited in dependent claims 45-58.

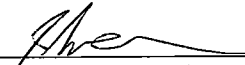
New independent claims 78, 79 and 80 have also been added. These claims include the limitations of independent claim 59 and the limitations of previously presented claims 60-62, non-respectively.

In view of the foregoing, each of the remaining pending claims 59-62 and 64-80 are in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of an Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If any additional petitions or fees are required with this Amendment and Response, please consider this a request therefore and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

John T. Kennedy
Attorney Reg. No. 42,717
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 4700
Denver, Colorado 80202-5647
Tel.: (303) 629-3400
Fax: (303) 629-3450
USPTO Customer No.: 20686